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Lent on account of the Eclipse Expeditions of 1870 and 1871:—

One polarimeter. Mr. Ranyard.
One ditto. B. A. Eclipse Committee.
Camera and chemicals in box. B. A. Eclipse Committee.
One five-prism spectroscope. B. A. Eclipse Committee.
One ditto. Mr. Lockyer.
Cradle for telescope. Mr. W. A. Harris.

The Gold Medal.

The Council have awarded the Gold Medal to Prof. D'Arrest, for his work entitled "Siderum Nebulosorum Observationes Havnienses institutæ in Specula Universitatis per Tubum Sedecimpedalem Merzianum ab Anno 1861 ad Annum 1867," and his other astronomical works. The President will explain to the Meeting the grounds of this award after the reading of the Annual Report.

Publications of the Society.

Volume XL. of the *Memoirs*, containing Sir John Herschel's posthumous Catalogue of Double Stars, is now published, and may be obtained by Fellows on application, in the usual manner, to the Assistant Secretary, at the apartments of the Society. Although this Catalogue does not contain the angular distances and positions of the components, yet the work will be found valuable to observers as an Index to the Double-star Catalogues from which it is compiled. The insertion of these additional data would undoubtedly have greatly enhanced the value of the Catalogue, but, after due consideration, the Editors considered it better to publish the work, with but slight modifications, as left by its illustrious compiler at the time of his lamented death.

Volume XLI., containing the collected accounts of the observations of Total Eclipses of the Sun from 1842 to 1871, is also far advanced, and the Council hope that it will be published in the current year. This volume will be a highly important one, and it will doubtless be much sought after, not only by the Fellows, but by the public generally.

Volume XLII. is also in the press, and it will contain, in addition to other papers, Colonel Tennant's Report on the Total Eclipse of the Sun of December 11-12, 1871, illustrated with fine engravings of four of the photographs taken at Dodabetta.

The volumes of the *Monthly Notices* still retain the high estimation with which they are held by astronomers of all nations.

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It is exceedingly gratifying to the Council to find that their possession is so coveted by foreign astronomers, from whom repeated applications are received for their monthly transmission. Volume XXXIV., just completed, will bear comparison with any of its predecessors, not only for the number of contributions to its pages, but also for the numerous important papers which it contains, which in former years would undoubtedly have been reserved for the *Memoirs*. The advantage to authors of a speedy publication of their papers in the *Monthly Notices* has been highly appreciated; but at the same time, it is always advisable that elaborate papers containing much mathematical formulæ or tabular matter should appear in the *Memoirs*.

The Assistant Secretary.

Owing to the lamented death of Mr. John Williams, the late Assistant Secretary, who had faithfully served the Society for 28 years, the Council have been called upon to choose a successor. Several gentlemen well fitted for the office made application for the post, when, after the most careful consideration of the different qualifications of the candidates, the choice of the Council fell on Mr. W. H. Wesley, who will enter upon his duties soon after the anniversary meeting.

Obituary.

The Council have to report the death of the following Fellows and Associates during the past year.

Fellows:—Rev. L. P. Baker, B.D.
T. W. Burr, Esq.
Lieut. Carpendale.
W. C. Cox, Esq.
Capt. H. B. Lynch, C.B.
W. Parsonson, Esq.
Rev. H. Robinson, D.D.
J. T. Samuel, Esq.
Rev. W. Ellis Wall.
T. T. Wilkinson, Esq.

Associates:—Prof. P. A. Hansen.
Prof. J. H. von Mädler.
M. le Comte de Pontécoulant.
M. Quetelet.

The father of the late Mr. Thomas William Burr held an official appointment in the Coal Exchange in London, in which city the subject of our memoir was born on the 10th of July, 1821. He was mainly educated at a private school at Margate, kept by Mr. C. Lewis, and on attaining the age of 16 was

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